



# Town of Darien

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## **Darien Achieves HEARTSafe Community Status – Again!**

*Darien has just met the renewal requirements of a designated HEARTSafe Community from the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the American Heart Association. This is a three year designation which recognizes Darien's continued commitment in providing improved cardiac response and care to residents and visitors utilizing the "Chain of Survival" concept. Recognition was first conferred to the town in 2009.*



*From left to right:*

*Kylie Maier, Ron Hammer, Jayme Stevenson, Joan Gildea, Emma Byrne, Molly Larson  
David Knauf, Jack Johnston, JT Fueigna and Maddie Schneider*

*There are four vital links to the "Chain of Survival": early access to emergency care, early advanced care, early cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and early defibrillation. Darien far exceeded the standards established to be a HEARTSafe Community previously and actually improved upon those requirements since then. Darien Post 53 was and continues to be our community training center for the American Heart Association*

*Obtaining the designation as a HEARTSafe Community represents a true community effort of not just the vital fire, police, and emergency medical services, but also of various town departments, schools, businesses and individuals that provided training opportunities and purchased publicly located automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Just as important are those citizens who took the time and effort to become CPR/AED certified.*

*Jayme Stevenson, Darien First Selectman said “I'm very proud of our community for supporting the Connecticut Department of Health's HEARTSafe Community initiative. Through the hard work of Darien's Health Department staff in cooperation with Post 53, the Darien Police Department, Darien's 3 volunteer fire departments and the Darien Public Schools, as well as the voluntary participation from an ever growing number of community partners, Darien has not only met but has exceeded the requirements necessary to earn this important designation. Community awareness and skilled response saves lives.”*

*Molly Larson, the Public Health Nurse for the Darien Health Department coordinated this award application effort and Ron Hammer together with Joan Gildea of Post 53 provided considerable assistance in making this happen.*